Last Note - Chapter 4

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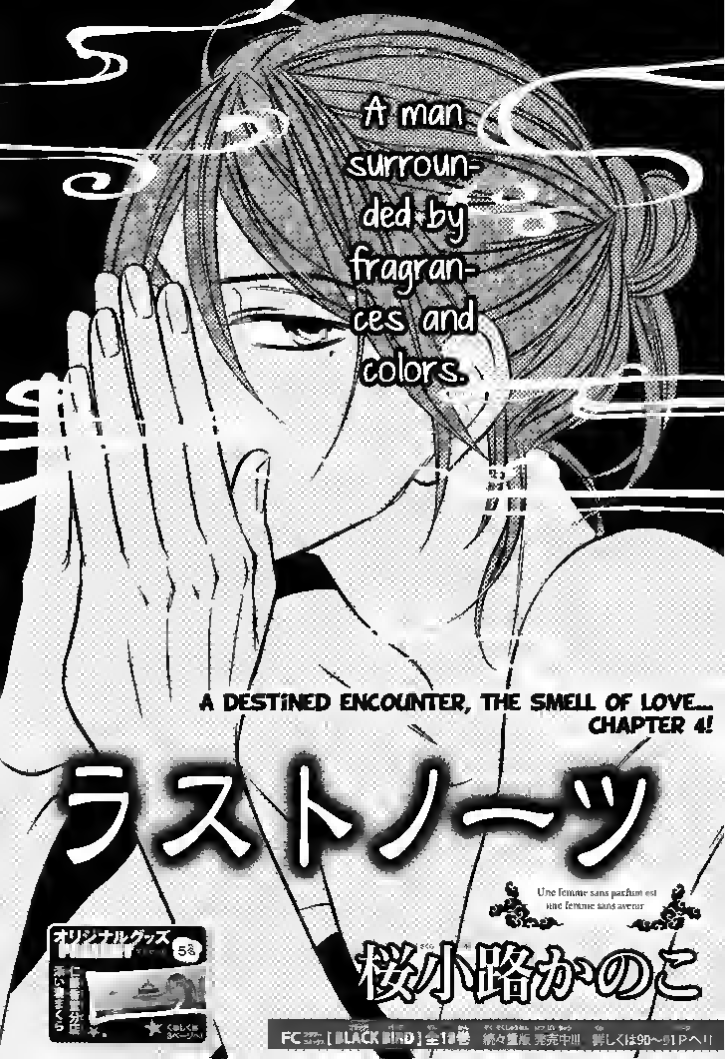


A DESTINED ENCOUNTER, THE SMELL OF LOVE... CHAPTER 4!

ラストノーツ

Une femme sans parfum est une femme sans avenir

桜小路かのこ

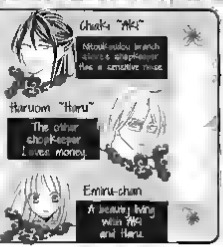
オリジナルグッズ
5&
くわしくはカレーリンへ!!
FC [BLACK BIRD] 全12巻 絶賛重版 発売中!! 詳しくは90～91Pへ!!

Highlight of the Last Chapter

The gentleness of Aki and Haru.

The anti-spirit incense sold at the Nitouk-oulou Branch Store is a mysterious fragrant wood that can summon the deceased when lighted. However, the death of Goshima, who was responsible for the purchase of the anti-spirit incense, broke off their connection with the source. After her grandpa's death, the lonely Emiru-chan began living together with Aki and Haru, who wish to "find the source of the anti-spirit incense."

Emiru-chan lied about the anti-spirit incense' believing that Aki and Haru agreed to let her stay with them because they hoped she could come up with clues. They treated gently at the time. Emiru-chan started feeling guilty. Furthermore, the rumors being spread reminded Emiru-chan of her painful past, and so she decided to leave the store.


Chaki "Aki"
Nitouk-oulou branch store's employee. Has a sensitive nose.
Haruom "Haru"
The other shop-keeper. Loves money.
Emiru-chan
A beauty living with Aki and Haru.

I LEFT WITHOUT SAYING ANYTHING
JUST LIKE THAT.
Hugs

BUT.

"WHO'S THAT CHILD?"

"THERE'S A RUMOR GOING AROUND "

IF SOMEONE LIKE ME CONTINUED TO STAY THERE,

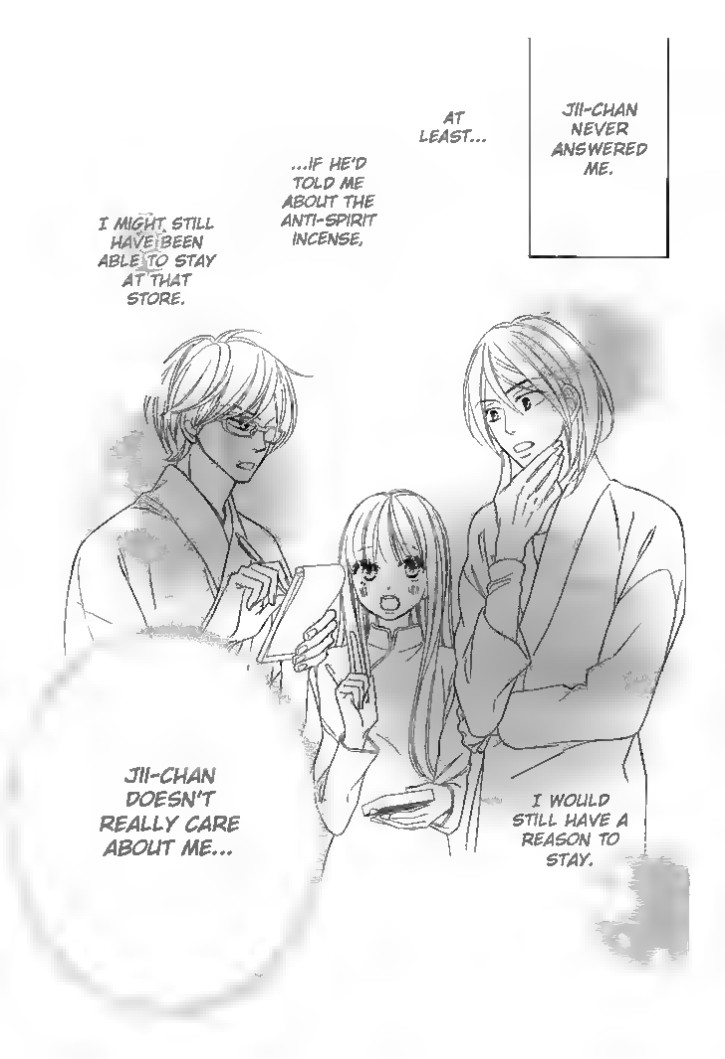
THEIR REPUTATION WOULD BE HURT

...COLD VILLAGE THAT MAKES ME SUFFOCATE...
THAT...
THE ONLY PLACE...
I HAVE TO GO BACK TO IS THAT VILLAGE.
HMM.
HOW SHOULD I GO BACK?
HIGH-SPEED TRAIN, EXPRESS BUS
WHERE CAN I GET ON?
I'LL GO AS FAR AS I CAN,
THEN CHANGE TO A SLOWER FORM OF TRANSPORTATION—
FROM THERE

THE ONLY THING I REMEMBER...
...IS NEVER ONCE HAVING HEARD THE ADULTS IN THE VILLAGE CALL MY NAME
THEY'VE HATED CALLING ME SINCE A LONG TIME AGO.
"THAT WOMAN'S DAUGHTER..."
THAT PERSON FROM MY MEMORIES...
IF IT'S ABOUT "THAT WOMAN".

MY MOTHER WAS A VERY BEAUTIFUL PERSON,
BUT SHE SUDDENLY PASSED AWAY ONE DAY.
JII-CHAN NEVER TOLD ME THE REASON.
GLARE
whisper
whisper
AS I GREW UP, I FINALLY UNDERSTOOD FROM THE ADULTS' GOSSIP
AT LAST, I FOUND OUT WHY I WAS BEING TREATED THAT WAY.
MY MOTHER WAS "SHAMEFUL",
WOULD "PLAY AROUND WITH MEN",
AND EVEN "HAVE AFFAIRS" WITH MARRIED MEN.

THAT'S WHY, AFTER MY MOTHER DIED, THEY DIRECTED ALL THEIR HATRED AT ME.
ONE THING I DO KNOW IS THAT MY MOTHER GAVE BIRTH TO A CHILD WITH NO FATHER.
THOUGH I DON'T KNOW HOW MANY OF THOSE THINGS WERE TRUE,
"I WON'T LET MY KID NEAR HER. WHAT IF SOME WEIRD RUMOR GOES AROUND?!"
"IF I JUST ACT A LITTLE NICER TO THE KID, PEOPLE ACCUSE ME OF BEING HER FATHER. I CAN'T TAKE IT ANYMORE."
"I KNEW HOW SHE FLIRTED WITH MEN."
BUT HE SAID THAT WE COULDN'T LEAVE THE VILLAGE.
AND APOLOGIZED TO ME AGAIN AND AGAIN,
JII-CHAN KNEW I WAS BEING SHOUTED AT...
WHY?
MANY TIMES, I'VE CRIED WHILE SAYING I HATE THIS PLACE, RIGHT?
WHY DO I HAVE TO BE IMPRISONED HERE?


JII-CHAN NEVER ANSWERED ME.
AT LEAST...
...IF HE'D TOLD ME ABOUT THE ANTI-SPIRIT INCENSE,
I MIGHT STILL HAVE BEEN ABLE TO STAY AT THAT STORE.
JII-CHAN DOESN'T REALLY CARE ABOUT ME...
I WOULD STILL HAVE A REASON TO STAY.

Chew
Gummy
THE BREAD I BOUGHT FROM THE CONVE-NIENCE STORE JUST THEN
I'M HUN-GRY
OPEN
I MUST FORGET...

...THOSE HAPPY MOMENTS.
IF I REMEMBER THEM,
I WON'T BE ABLE TO LIVE ALONE FROM NOW ON.
TAKE A BUS.
STAND UP
I NEED TO GO TO THE STATION.
I HAVE TO GO...

AH!
FLIES AWAY
STAGGER

CATCH

FOUND YOU...
AKI...
WHY ARE YOU HERE...?
CONVE-NIENCE STORE...
PEOPLE ON THE SHOPPING STREET SAW YOU.
PEOPLE WILL NOTICE A CUTE GIRL WEARING CLOTHES LIKE THAT EVEN IF THEY DON'T WANT TO.
BY THE WAY...

STARTLED
SITTING IN A DARK AND DESERTED PLACE...
WHAT IF SOMETHING WERE TO HAPPEN?!
WHAT WERE YOU THINKING?!
AH,
SORRY...
...
EH?
AH, IT IS.
TURN
...AKI,
YOUR SHOELACE IS UNDONE

AH!
RUNS AWAY
As expected from someone who grew up in the mountains.
SO FAST!
fwoosh
DASH
WAIT
TAKES
OFF
DAM-MIT.

GRAB
DON'T UNDERESTIMATE A MAN WHO'S BEING SERIOUS...!
SQUEEZE
DON'T ...
BEAR WITH IT
YOU'LL ESCAPE AGAIN IF I DON'T DO THIS
OUCH!

DON'T GO.
I... I WANT TO LEAVE.
I'M LEA-VING.
DIDN'T YOU SAY YOU DON'T WANT TO BE ALONE?
DID WE DO SOME-THING WRONG?
...WHY?
IF I STAY,
WEIRD RUMORS WILL SPREAD AND PEOPLE WILL GOSSIP ABOUT YOU GUYS...
OR ARE YOU TROUBLED ABOUT WHAT OBA-SAN SAID?
AND I NEVER HEARD WHY YOU HAD TO LEAVE.

I WOULDN'T BE HERE NOW IF I CARED ABOUT PEOPLE TALKING ABOUT US
WE WEREN'T BEING GOSSIPED ABOUT.
I'M SORRY I LIED.
I'M REALLY SORRY...!
I LEFT A MESSAGE.
Thank you for your care. I'm returning the clothes to you. Also, I don't know anything about the anti-spirit incense. I'm really sorry.
I HAVE NO IDEA ABOUT THE ANTI-SPIRIT INCENSE
SO WHAT?
EVEN...
EVEN SO, I DON'T HAVE THE RIGHT TO STAY HERE.

ALL RIGHT?
GIVE ME YOUR BAGS.
SO YOU HATE US?
shake
shake
OR IS IT THAT..
...WE CAN'T BECOME EMIRU-CHAN'S FAMILY?
FAMILY...

YOU SAID YOU WERE GOING BACK, EMI-RU-CHAN,
BUT INSTEAD OF GETTING ON A TRAIN, YOU CAME HERE ALONE
CAN I ASSUME...
...THERE'S SOMETHING YOU CAN'T LET GO OF IN OUR HOME?
BLUSH
あわわ

BUT I'M NOT STRUGGLING.
...AREN'T [illegible] TO ME AS TIGHTLY AS BEFORE,
THESE HANDS THAT ARE SOMEWHAT COLD...

THESE HANDS MAKE ME WEAK.
AH. .
UM, I..
HARU.
WEL-COME HOME
Ha

LET'S BURN THE ANTI-SPIRIT IN-CENSE.
TO SUMMON JII-SAN?
YEAH
I WANT EMIRU-CHAN TO MEET WITH HIM.
WHERE ARE YOU GOING?
...
I...
I DON'T WANT TO...
BECAUSE JII-CHAN DOESN'T CARE ABOUT ME,
I DON'T WANT HIM TO CONFIRM IT.

IF YOU WANT TO FIND OUT ABOUT THE ANTI-SPIRIT INCENSE, THEN THE TWO OF YOU CAN...
WE CAN'T,
BECAUSE THIS IS A GIFT FOR EMIRU-CHAN.
THE ANTI-SPIRIT INCENSE...
...WON'T WORK IF THE SENDER AND RECEIVER DON'T SHARE THOUGHTS OF EACH OTHER.
"WANTING TO SEE THAT PERSON EVEN I THOUGH I'VE DIED,"
"WANTING TO SEE THAT PERSON WHO DIED..."
IF EITHER OF THESE FEELINGS DOESN'T EXIST IT WON'T WORK.
THEN I CAN'T DO IT.
I DON'T WANT TO MEET HIM
..WAIT.
I UNDERSTAND IF YOU'RE SAYING YOU'RE NOT INTERESTED IN JII-SAN'S WORK,
BUT WHY DO YOU HATE JII-SAN TOO?

NO, RATHER THAN HATE,
HE DOESN'T CARE ABOUT ME...
BECAUSE JII-CHAN HATES ME...!
...I THINK YOU'RE MISTAKEN.
...IS A BANK ACCOUNT UNDER YOUR NAME
THIS ..
Goshima Emiru-san
Integrated Account Passbook
HARU, TAKE THAT OUT.

?
THERE ARE SEVEN ZEROS?!
SE-VEN
SEVEN
THE PAYMENT FOR THE FRAGRANT WOOD EMIRU-CHAN BROUGHT,
AND THE RETIREMENT PENSION JII-SAN RECEIVED FROM NITOUKOUDOU COMPANY...
Ah, and the inheritance tax has already been deducted.
WHEN JII-SAN BROUGHT THE PASSBOOK TO US,
HE SAID THIS MONEY WAS FOR EMIRU-CHAN.
THAT'S WHAT HE REQUESTED.
THAT FRAGRANT WOOD ALONE IS WORTH ALMOST 5 MILLION YEN,
BECAUSE SUCH A LARGE PIECE OF HIGH QUALITY FRAGRANT WOOD IS RARE.

IT'S ALL THANKS TO JII-SAN THAT NITOUKOU-DOU IS HOW IS IT NOW.
TO BE HONEST,
I WAS GOING TO RETURN IT TO YOU AFTER I'D INCREASED THE RETIREMENT PENSION!
SO...
SO THIS IS ALL FOR ME...
FROM NOW ON, I'LL RETURN THEM TO EMIRU-CHAN.
I'VE RECEIVED MANY KINDNESSES FROM JII-SAN.
ME TOO, EMIRU-CHAN
I WILL...
HE WOULDN'T HAVE COME HERE IF HE DIDN'T CARE ABOUT EMIRU-CHAN
MAYBE THAT WAS WHY HE COULDN'T TELL YOU HIS TRUE INTENTIONS
JII-SAN WASN'T GOOD AT EXPRESSING HIS FEELINGS.

WE WILL ..
...TREASURE EMIRU-CHAN ON JII-SAN'S BEHALF.
DO YOU UNDERSTAND NOW?

AKI AND HARU ARE PERSUADING ME TO STAY...?
EMIRU-CHAN,
LET'S ASK HIM.
EVEN IF WE WANT TO STAND IN FOR JII-SAN, WE CAN'T
LET'S MEET WITH JII-SAN
BECAUSE JII-SAN WOULD LIKE TO SEE EMIRU-CHAN
THAT'S WHY HE LEFT THIS HERE

...OKAY.
SWIRL
...JII-CHAN.

Emiru_ chan,
I'm sorry
sorry
JII-CHAN
Emiru_ chan
You're probably unsatisfied because I didn't tell you the reason
I'm sorry to have kept you at the village and given you those bad memories

There was no news of her after she left home,
but I always hoped she would return
That's why I never left that house
Your mother is actually still alive
Because of my stubborn-ness, I made you suffer
But you're free now
Your life from now on
...is up to you to decide. Enjoy it.

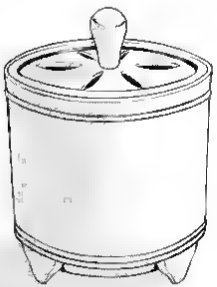
Do your best from now on
JII-CHAN...
I've prepared everything you need to live on freely
Sorry for leaving you all alone
I DON'T WANT ...
I CAN'T ACCEPT WHAT YOU'VE JUST TOLD ME SO SUDDENLY.
COME BACK...
...THIS IS THE FIRST TIME...
I'VE SEEN EMI-RU-CHAN CRY SO SADLY

SHE REALLY LOVED HER JII-CHAN.
THE PERSON WHO WENT TO VIETNAM WITH HER SAID THAT SHE DIDN'T CRY THROUGHOUT THE TRIP.
I THOUGHT SHE WOULDN'T BE SAD
IT'S PROBABLY THE FIRST TIME SHE'S CRIED SINCE JII-SAN DIED.
IT'S NOT BECAUSE SHE'S NOT SAD.
THE CLOTHES EMIRU-CHAN CHOSE AND THE FOOD SHE COOKED WERE DULL.
THEY WERE PROBABLY AFFECTED BY JII-SAN.

AH...
LOOKS LIKE HE'S ABOUT TO VANISH...
THIS ISN'T THE RIGHT TIME TO ASK ABOUT THE ANTI-SPIRIT INCENSE, RIGHT?
HEY, WHAT SHOULD WE DO?
...
THERE'S NO HELPING IT
WHAT DO YOU MEAN, NO HELPING
Haru_chan,
Aki_chan
Please look after Emiru_chan for me

UNDERSTOOD, JII-SAN.
...THANK YOU.
oh, right
The thing you want to know is at the house in the village
You'll just need to go there

EH...?
Take care, then.
Emiru-chan
JII-SAN!
JII-CHAN...
WAIT, JII-SAN!



TO BE CONTINUED

The anti-spirit incense brought Emmu-chan and Ji-chan together. What did Ji-chan's last words mean?